

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 /059 W

----- 082561

R 032043Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2971

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DEPT PASS TO FAA AND NTSB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BL

SUBJECT: SANTA CRUZ AIR CRASH: LIABILITY

REF: LA PAZ 8291

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED QUERIES ABOUT LIABILITY FROM FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF SANTA CRUZ AIR CRASH. MORE ARE EXPECTED. WE ARE REFERRING SUCH QUERIES TO DR. PEDRO DIAZ ROMERO OF THE BOLIVIAN AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN LA PAZ. WE EXPECT PRESS WILL ALSO ASK ABOUT LIABILITY. THEY, TOO, WILL BE REFERRED TO DR. DIAZ.

2. FYI. NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES IN SANTA CRUZ AND LA PAZ SAY EITHER RODEL OR JET POWER CORPORATION WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE UNDERSTAND LIABILITY COULD REST WITH LLOYD AEREO BOLIVIANO (LAB) SINCE THE PLANE WAS UNDER CONTRACT TO LAB AND FLEW WITH A LAB FLIGHT NUMBER. NEWSPAPERS SAY THAT SOME AMERICAN LAWYERS ARE IN SANTA CRUZ PRESSURING FAMILIES OF VICTIMS INTO SIGNING RELEASES IN EXCHANGE FOR UNSTATED AMOUNTS OF MONEY. WE ARE UNABLE SO FAR TO IDENTIFY LAWYERS OR WHOM THEY REPRESENT. SOME BOLIVIAN ARE KNOWN TO BE

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TRAVELING TO MIAMI TO SETTLE WITH INSURANCE COMPANIES OR

LAWYERS THERE. AGAIN WE DO NOT KNOW WITH WHOM THE
BOLIVIANS ARE DEALING.

3. POST WILL WELCOME ANY POINTERS OR GUIDANCE, BASED ON
EXPERIENCE WITH AIR DISASTERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THAT
THE DEPT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE.
STEDMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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